

Instructional Quality Commission,

Please accept my comment pursuant to your Updated Draft History–Social Science Framework - Attachment 1D: Course Descriptions, Grades Six through Eight (DOC; Update Oct-8-2015)

Page 253 / Line 474/ Title = Southwestern Asia, 300-1200: Persia and the World of Islam

Your Comments:

This comment is regarding the identification of the Persian Gulf, the body of water stretching from the Strait of Hormuz in the east to the Shatt al-Arab in the west. The text in the framework identifies this body of water parenthetically as the Arabian Gulf. It should be noted however that the designation Arabian Gulf in reference to the Persian Gulf is a recent phenomenon: it represents a politically driven renaming of a commonly used and age old name describing a geographical entity to which numerous ancient and pre-modern geographers have made reference. This relabeling is driven by politics, and represents a rather blatant act of appropriation. It should also be noted that the name “Persian Gulf” is the currently accepted name by the International Hydrographic Organization and the international community as a whole. We are concerned that by including the label “Arabian Gulf “ as an alternate designation for the Persian Gulf, the California School Board Education is signaling its support for the ahistorical, politically motivated and, ultimately, arbitrary appropriation of well-known geographical entities.

In order to rectify this mistake we ask that you remove the designation “Arabian Gulf” from your text.

Current Text:

A map of the eastern hemisphere also shows students that Southwestern Asia, Persia, Arabia, the Red Sea, and the Persian (Arabian) Gulf were natural channels for land and sea trade in spices, textiles, and many other goods between the Indian Ocean world and the Mediterranean area.

Corrected Text:

A map of the eastern hemisphere also shows students that Southwestern Asia, Persia, Arabia, the Red Sea, and the Persian Gulf were natural channels for land and sea trade in spices, textiles, and many other goods between the Indian Ocean world and the Mediterranean area.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input. Good luck with your updates.